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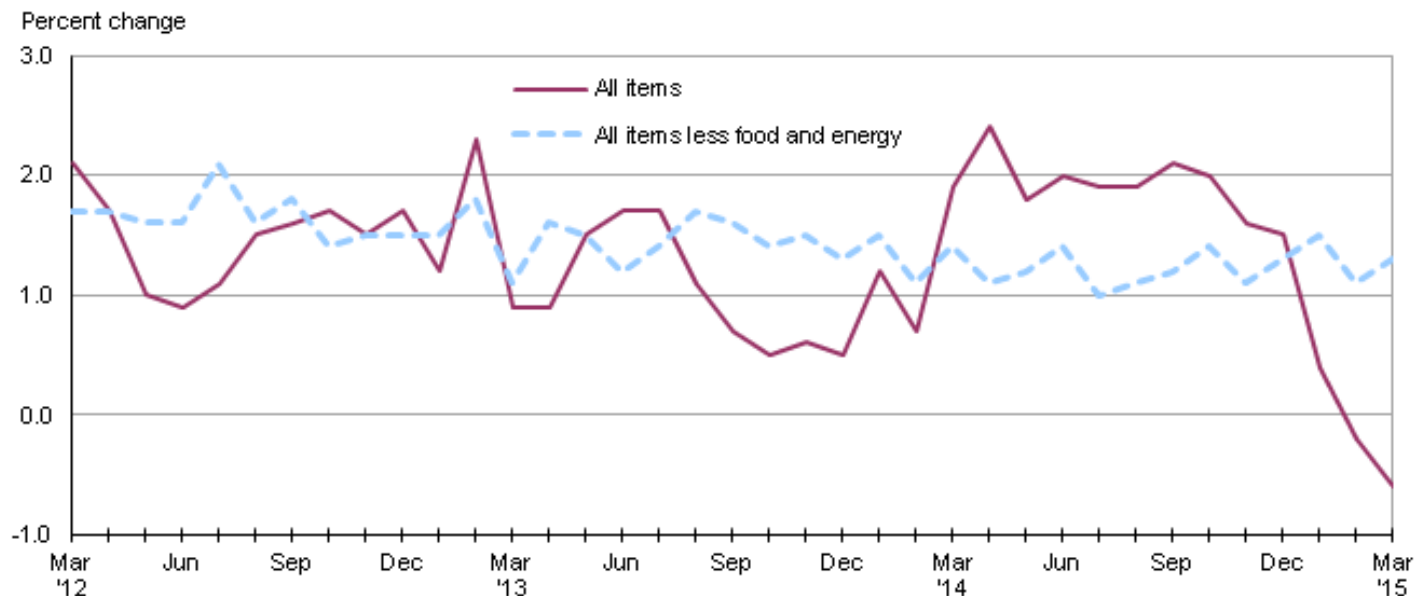
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha - March 2015

Local prices down 0.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area increased 0.7 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that energy prices rose 5.4 percent and food prices increased 0.3 percent in March. The all items less food and energy index rose 0.4 percent over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy index, prices rose for apparel and shelter. Prices were lower for medical care in March. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the Chicago area all items CPI-U decreased 0.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index fell 21.1 percent over the year as falling gasoline prices and utility (piped) gas service cost overcame increases in electricity costs. The all items less food and energy index was 1.3 percent higher over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago, March 2012–March 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.3 percent in March following a 0.5 percent decrease in February. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) rose 0.4 percent and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) increased 0.2 percent, over the month. Within the food at home group, categories experiencing increases included tomatoes, breakfast cereal, and bread. Prices were lower for chicken and frozen and freeze dried prepared foods.

From March 2014 to March 2015, the food index increased 2.3 percent. Grocery food prices rose 2.1 percent over the year, while prices for food eaten away from home increased 2.7 percent compared to last March.

Energy

The energy index was up 5.4 percent in March due mostly to a 10.2 percent increase in gasoline prices. Utility (piped) gas service costs rose 3.8 percent and the electricity index was up 0.2 percent from February to March.

On an annual basis, the Chicago area energy index declined 21.1 percent. Over the year, gasoline prices and utility (piped) gas service costs fell 31.3 percent and 36.1 percent, respectively, while the index for electricity rose 24.9 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.4 percent in March. Among the index's components, prices were higher for apparel (5.1 percent) and shelter (0.3 percent). Prices were lower, in contrast, for medical care (-0.8 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.3 percent. Annual increases in the indexes for shelter (3.1 percent), medical care (2.8 percent), and education and communication (1.2 percent) were the major contributing factors. In contrast, apparel prices were down 6.7 percent and the household furnishings and operations index fell 2.4 percent over the year.

Table A. Chicago CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.6	1.4	0.6	2.1	0.2	1.2	0.9	1.2	-0.2	0.4
February.....	0.5	1.8	0.0	1.6	1.1	2.3	0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.2
March.....	0.8	2.3	1.2	2.1	-0.1	0.9	1.1	1.9	0.7	-0.6
April.....	0.4	2.7	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.9	0.5	2.4		
May.....	0.6	3.3	-0.1	1.0	0.5	1.5	-0.1	1.8		
June.....	0.0	3.8	-0.1	0.9	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.0		
July.....	-0.4	3.2	-0.2	1.1	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.9		
August.....	0.2	3.2	0.6	1.5	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.9		
September.....	0.2	3.1	0.3	1.6	-0.2	0.7	0.0	2.1		
October.....	-0.2	2.9	-0.2	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	2.0		
November.....	-0.2	2.9	-0.4	1.5	-0.3	0.6	-0.8	1.6		
December.....	-0.5	2.1	-0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	1.5		

The April 2015 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Friday, May 22, 2015, at 7:30 a.m. (CT).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Lake and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Mar. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015
Expenditure category						
All items	225.852	225.763	227.405	-0.6	0.7	0.7
All items (1967=100)	674.753	674.487	679.392	-	-	-
Food and beverages	240.287	239.125	239.642	2.0	-0.3	0.2
Food	239.683	238.529	239.237	2.3	-0.2	0.3
Food at home	238.969	236.419	237.289	2.1	-0.7	0.4
Food away from home	235.255	236.108	236.570	2.7	0.6	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	247.522	246.250	243.936	-2.5	-1.4	-0.9
Housing	231.396	231.163	232.224	1.5	0.4	0.5
Shelter	285.014	285.694	286.671	3.1	0.6	0.3
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	301.829	302.719	303.496	3.6	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	290.716	290.960	291.752	2.5	0.4	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	290.716	290.960	291.752	2.5	0.4	0.3
Fuels and utilities	205.290	200.001	203.423	-5.5	-0.9	1.7
Household energy	172.906	166.431	169.157	-9.2	-2.2	1.6
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	176.372	169.744	172.461	-8.9	-2.2	1.6
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	174.173	174.159	174.586	24.9	0.2	0.2
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	162.824	147.670	153.300	-36.1	-5.8	3.8
Household furnishings and operations	96.766	97.047	96.867	-2.4	0.1	-0.2
Apparel	88.807	87.730	92.226	-6.7	3.8	5.1
Transportation	173.342	178.625	183.032	-10.4	5.6	2.5
Private transportation	169.819	174.975	179.873	-10.7	5.9	2.8
Motor fuel	188.814	210.332	231.701	-31.3	22.7	10.2
Gasoline (all types)	186.485	207.984	229.201	-31.3	22.9	10.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	180.349	201.849	223.218	-31.9	23.8	10.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	206.098	226.320	246.112	-29.3	19.4	8.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	196.316	215.707	233.685	-28.1	19.0	8.3
Medical care	462.307	463.965	460.288	2.8	-0.4	-0.8
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	112.665	108.898	108.913	-0.3	-3.3	0.0
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	142.461	141.542	142.282	1.2	-0.1	0.5
Other goods and services	383.756	378.645	381.130	-0.9	-0.7	0.7
Commodity and service group						
All items	225.852	225.763	227.405	-0.6	0.7	0.7
Commodities	164.448	165.278	167.830	-4.7	2.1	1.5
Commodities less food & beverages	126.071	127.742	131.098	-9.5	4.0	2.6
Nondurables less food & beverages	161.195	164.122	171.084	-13.4	6.1	4.2
Durables	92.338	92.820	92.765	-1.8	0.5	-0.1
Services	284.011	283.054	283.839	1.8	-0.1	0.3
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	215.722	215.555	217.435	-0.9	0.8	0.9
All items less shelter	206.012	205.651	207.536	-2.3	0.7	0.9
Commodities less food	130.415	132.021	135.252	-9.1	3.7	2.4
Nondurables	201.172	202.179	206.146	-5.4	2.5	2.0
Nondurables less food	166.812	169.529	176.032	-12.6	5.5	3.8
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	297.793	295.044	295.657	0.6	-0.7	0.2
Services less medical care services	270.353	269.296	270.312	1.7	0.0	0.4
Energy	178.729	183.155	193.126	-21.1	8.1	5.4
All items less energy	232.128	231.608	232.468	1.5	0.1	0.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Mar. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015
All items less food and energy	231.578	231.173	232.064	1.3	0.2	0.4

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.